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THE
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE
OXENDON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
1918,
BY
C. T. SCOTT,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Market Harborough :
A. E. Wilkinson, Printer, 64, High Street.

REPORT.



Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report together with that of your Sanitary Inspector.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases :—87 cases of infectious disease have been notified during the year which is very greatly above the average ; the large number is due to an epidemic of measles which prevailed during the first six months of the year and accounted for 82 of the 87 notifiable cases. The major portion of this epidemic occurred at Welford, the cases were of a mild type, but at Oxendon it was followed by whooping cough and one fatality occurred there in a child who developed meningitis after measles and whooping cough. Schools were closed for measles at Welford, Marston and Oxendon. The remaining 5 notifiable cases includes one of erysipelas and 4 of scarlet fever ; three of the scarlet fever cases occurred simultaneously in the same house at Sutton Bassett. As a large epidemic of scarlet fever occurred in Market Harborough during the autumn months, the Oxendon District is fortunate in having escaped with so few cases.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases :—There was an epidemic of whooping cough at Oxendon as already mentioned. During October and November the district was widely attacked by the universal pandemic of influenza but escaped almost free during the summer. Most cases occurred in the villages but many also in remotely situated houses far removed from any other dwellings, persons being infected in these houses who had not been away from their houses for weeks and had not received infectious visitors.

A considerable number of cases of pneumonia followed upon the influenza but I am unable to give the number as the disease was not notifiable. There were eleven deaths from influenza (six of these due to pneumonia, one to bronchitis, one to convulsions and one cerebral congestion) giving a death rate per 1,000 population of 2·7 which is a very low figure compared with the Urban areas. The ages at death from influenza during this epidemic is very striking and the figures for the Oxendon district bear out the general experience that the disease was most fatal to young adults ; thus, of the eleven deaths 1 was under 20 years of age, 6 between 20—30, 2 between 30—40 and 1 each between 40—50. In previous epidemics influenza has generally been progressively fatal with

advancing age. Owing to scattered and Rural nature of the district no special precautions were adopted beyond school closure in the infected villages.

Tuberculosis :—Three new cases have occurred during the year ; one of these being a soldier discharged with the disease and the other two also imported. There were 2 deaths from tuberculosis.

Vital Statistics :—43 deaths occurred. The average number is 50 so that, in spite of the influenza epidemic, the number is below the average. The death rate per 1,000 population was 10·4—rate for England and Wales 17·6 (population for death rate 4,087 Registrar General's figures.) Members of the Army and Navy are not included in this return. Amongst the causes of death were influenza 11, senile heart disease 5, cancer 2, cerebral hæmorrhage 5, and senility 8.

Infant Mortality :—Three deaths under 1 year of age occurred a rate of 53·4 per 1,000 births—rate for England and Wales 97—this is about our average for the district. Two of the three deaths were in children of less than 24 hours old both of whom were premature, the other death was due to influenza.

The birth rate is considerably below the average ; 56 births include 27 males and 29 females of whom 3 males and 2 females were illegitimate ; 62 births were registered the previous year which was below the pre-war average of 70 ; the birth rate per 1,000 population is 15·4—rate for England and Wales 17·7 (population for birth rate 3,600 Registrar General's figures.

| | | Oxendon. | | All England & Wales. |
|-----------------------|-----|----------|-----|----------------------|
| Death rate | ... | 10·4 | ... | 17·6 |
| Birth rate | ... | 15·4 | ... | 17·7 |
| Infant mortality rate | | 53·4 | ... | 97·0 |

Milk supply :—Milk for children and nursing mothers in necessitous circumstances has been provided by the Council in a few cases. The supply of milk, on the whole, has been adequate though in a few instances there has been a difficulty to obtain a sufficient quantity on account of the milk being sent in bulk to the towns.

In conclusion I wish to thank you, Gentlemen, for your continued courtesy and consideration to me and remain

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES T. SCOTT.

Oxendon Rural District Council. - Sanitary Inspector's & Surveyor's Report for 1918.

| Parishes. | Population. | Defective Drains. | Defective Closets. | Accumulation of Refuse, Manure, etc. | Houses unfit for Human Habitation. | Houses with Defective Roofs. | Overcrowding. | Houses Disinfected. | Defective Water supplies. | Bakehouses. | Registered under Dairy Orders. | Defective Cow-sheds, etc. | Factory 1st Half. 2nd Half. | Outworkers. | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Arthingworth .. | 177 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | Arthingworth.—New sewer laid at the West End. |
| Ashley .. | 191 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — | Ashley.—New lead section pipe has been laid from the pump to the well. |
| Brampton Ash .. | 130 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | |
| Braybrooke .. | 268 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 | |
| Clipston .. | 497 | 6 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | — | |
| Dingley .. | 135 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | |
| East Fardon .. | 193 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | |
| Kelmarsh .. | 152 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | |
| Marston Trussell .. | 164 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | |
| Hothorpe .. | 48 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Oxendon .. | 173 | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Sibbertoft .. | 245 | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | |
| Sulby .. | 67 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Sutton Bassett .. | 70 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | Sutton.—New outlet drain is required to the Village pond. |
| Stoke Albany .. | 292 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 3 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | Stoke.—Drain to water trough has been re-laid. |
| Thorpelubenham .. | 22 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| Weston .. | 140 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | |
| Wilbarston .. | 463 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | |
| Welford .. | 849 | 7 | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 16 | |
| TOTALS .. | 4276 | 21 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 22 | 5 | 20 | 20 | |

GENERAL.—Inspections during the year totalled 1060, 270 being under the Housing department. Overcrowding still exists at Stoke, also house unfit for habitation ; no other house is available Nuisances reported were remedied.

Houses were disinfected as necessary. The water supplies were equal to demand. Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, Outworkers' premises, Workshops, and Dairy and Cow-sheds are in good sanitary condition.

Your obedient servant,

February 24th, 1919.

W. J. SMITH, Surveyor & Inspector.



A. L. ORMEROD, M.D., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sanitary Department,
Town Hall, Oxford,

2-6-1919

Re. Reports

Dear Sir,

I am instructed by Dr. Ormerod
to inform you that no reports have been published
during the war.

Yours faithfully,
A. Skipper,
Clerk.

The Librarian,

B. M. A. L.

429. Strand,

London

